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Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, Sept. 18
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Attachments: [Daily News Digest 09182014.pdf](#)

1 – Abandoned Houma shipyard makes EPA Cleanup list, WVUE, 9/18/2014

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/26564308/abandoned-houma-shipyard-makes-epa-cleanup-list>

The old Delta Shipyard was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Clean-Up list this week. This means that federal dollars will eventually be used to remove hazardous waste from the site. The state of Louisiana first contacted the EPA on this issue in 2012.

2 – Federal study of Pennsylvania fracking site finds no water pollution, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 9/17/14

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/09/federal_study_of_pennsylvania.html#incart_river

The final report from a landmark federal study on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, found no evidence that chemicals or brine water from the gas drilling process moved upward to contaminate drinking water at a site in western Pennsylvania. The Department of Energy report, released Monday, was the first time an energy company allowed independent monitoring of a drilling site during the fracking process and for 18 months afterward.

3 - New Orleans climate festival on tap Sunday to coincide with march in New York, NOLA.com 9/17/2014

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/09/festival_to_coincide_with_peop.html#incart_river

The Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy is teaming with other community and civic organizations to host the People's Climate Festival Sunday (Sept. 21) at Armstrong Park in New Orleans. The event is timed to coincide with the People's Climate March event in New York City.

4 – Oklahoma Oil and Gas Regulator Wrestles With Oversight of Wind Industry, State Impact, 9/18/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/09/18/oklahoma-oil-and-gas-regulator-wrestles-with-oversight-of-wind-industry/>

Corporation Commission meetings are usually pretty dull, but the Sept. 11 technical conference on wind energy was standing room only. It was lively — and theatrical. When Tammy Huffstutlar of Calumet took her turn at the microphone, she cued up recordings of whirring wind turbines to accompany her testimony.

5 – State Officials: Oklahoma Needs Oil Industry's Help to Meet Water Goals, State Impact, 9/17/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/09/17/state-officials-oklahoma-needs-oil-industrys-help-to-meet-water-goals/>

Insufficient rains and increasing demand put enormous pressure on Oklahoma's water resources both on the surface and underground. But it's also hard to overstate the role evaporation plays in the drought.

6 – Iberia Parish man's backyard project restores wetlands, Baton Rouge Advocate, 9/17/14

<http://theadvocate.com/news/10295475-123/story.html>

An Iberia Parish wetlands consultant and his do-it-yourself wetlands-restoration project are profiled in a story in The New York Times. “Come the weekend, some people golf. Matt Conn restores his wetland,” the article says.

7 – Lawmaker wants EPA to consider cost of new smog limits, Houston Chron, 9/17/2014

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/science-environment/article/Lawmaker-wants-EPA-to-consider-cost-of-new-smog-5762732.php>

A Texas lawmaker on Wednesday introduced a long-shot bill to force the Environmental Protection Agency to consider cost when setting nationwide limits for smog, or ozone. The bill by U.S. Rep. Pete Olson, a Sugar Land Republican, comes as the EPA considers ordering deeper cuts for the lung-irritating pollutant, which has fouled metropolitan Houston's air for decades.

8 – Drilling on Kirtland wells to start in 2015, Albq Journal, 9/18/14

<http://www.abqjournal.com/464188/news/drilling-on-kirtland-wells-to-start-in-2015.html>

The Air Force unveiled a proposal Wednesday to begin drilling wells in 2015 to try to intercept groundwater contamination from a Kirtland Air Force Base fuel spill before it can reach Albuquerque municipal drinking water wells. In all, the proposal calls for eight new cleanup wells to be operating by August 2016.

9 – Crossing the Line, Texas Observer, 9/17/2014

<http://www.texasobserver.org/keystone-xl-transcanada-crossing-line/>

The trouble for Lori Collins and her family started the day in early October 2012 when a backhoe plunged into the earth. Lori walked outside her farmhouse, in the East Texas bottomlands south of Paris, to see that her septic system had been torn from the ground to make way for a pipeline. She saw the piping scattered in the dirt on the side of a great trench—the future home of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which could eventually stretch from northern Alberta, Canada, to the Texas Gulf Coast, carrying diluted bitumen to refineries that will transform it into crude oil.

10 – Fatigue Linked To Dozens Of Fatal Crashes Involving Oilfield Workers, State Impact, 9/17/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/09/17/fatigue-linked-to-dozens-of-fatal-crashes-involving-oilfield-workers/>

State Highway 72 cuts through the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas. The two-lane artery links oil boomtowns like Kenedy and Tilden to the Three Rivers Valero refinery. Local residents call the highway “Death Row.”

“Every week someone dies, just about,” says Steve Alaniz, a construction manager based in Three Rivers.

11 – Devon using plastic covers to preserve water used in fracking, Tulsa World, 9/18/2014

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/devon-using-plastic-covers-to-preserve-water-used-in-fracking/article_3716fe7c-58f4-5cd2-9784-86bc2622b021.html

As oil and natural gas companies continue to expand production during the ongoing drought, companies have increased their efforts to reduce water demand and protect the water they use. Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy Corp. last year began experimenting in west Texas with covering the large pits it uses to collect water for use in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

12 – EPA grants extension on power plant pollution plan, Tulsa World, 9/17/2014

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/epa-grants-extension-on-power-plant-pollution-plan/article_70911041-a5b5-5bd6-81c7-f78c9e833006.html

The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday gave the public 45 more days to weigh in on a plan that would for the first time curb the pollution blamed for global warming from the nation's coal-fired power plants. The agency said it was still aiming to finalize the rules by next summer.

13 - Altered to Withstand Herbicide, Corn and Soybeans Gain Approval, The New York Times, 9/17/14

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/18/business/alterd-to-withstand-herbicide-corn-and-soybeans-gain-approval.html?_r=0

The Agriculture Department has approved the commercial planting of corn and soybeans genetically engineered to survive being sprayed by the herbicide known as 2,4-D, according to documents it posted on a federal regulatory website on Wednesday.

Some corn and soybean growers have been pushing for approval, saying the new crops would give them a sorely needed new tool to fight rapidly spreading weeds that can no longer be killed by Roundup, known generically as glyphosate, the usual herbicide of choice.

14 - Texas looks for cure to road danger in the oil patch, EE News, 9/18/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/09/18/stories/1060006017>

Texas highway officials are seeking more funds to repair roads and improve safety as vast swaths of the state cope with increases in truck traffic from the oil and gas industry. Voters statewide will decide in November whether to divert \$1.7 billion a year to roads in oil- and gas-producing regions (Greenwire, Aug. 27).

15 - Study finds high benzene levels around shale well tank hatches, EE News, 9/18/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/09/18/stories/1060006022>

Workers who measure tank levels at shale oil production sites face a unique hazard from benzene and other airborne chemicals, a federal study has found. The study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends that companies develop ways for those workers to measure the volume of the tanks without opening the hatches.

16- Oil, gas drilling creates money for Texas schools, Beaumont Enterprise, 9/18/14

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/texas/article/Oil-gas-drilling-creates-money-for-Texas-schools-5763506.php>

A Texas oil and gas boom fueled by hydraulic fracturing and new horizontal drilling techniques has generated a record \$1.26 billion this year to support K-12 public education. The San Antonio Express-News reports (<http://bit.ly/1r2AJT0>) that the Texas General Land Office released the fiscal 2014 figures on Wednesday.

17- Approval of Texas Flexible Permit Program Challenged by State Environmental Groups, BNA, 9/18/14

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?

[fedfid=56462605&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6a3e7b3&split=0](#)

A number of Texas environmental groups filed a petition for review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Fifth Circuit on Sept. 12, asking the court to review the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to approve Texas's revisions to its flexible air permit program (Environmental Integrity Project v. EPA, 5th Cir., No. 14-60649, 9/12/14).

The groups contend Texas's flexible permit program allows facility operators, even large operators such as refineries owned by Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch Shell Corp., and Valero Energy Corp., an avenue to skirt requirements of the Clean Air Act.

18- Natural gas alone isn't magic weapon against climate change, Eagle Ford, 9/18/14

<http://eaglefordtexas.com/news/id/135192/natural-gas-alone-isnt-magic-weapon-climate-change-2/>

Natural-gas wells here can be found just beyond the hedgerows of new subdivisions, and close by the hangars at the municipal airport. Their tunnels extend deep underneath a city park, a golf course and the University of North Texas football stadium. The wells draw from the Barnett Shale, a geological formation once thought too dense to be profitably tapped for energy.